

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0048/00124
Application No.: 09/749,869
Office Action Dated: September 9, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the telephone interview of November 3, 2004. An Interview Summary is attached herewith.

Claims 1 and 3-38 are pending. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent claims from which claims 3-10 and 38, 12-20 and 22-37 respectively depend. Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended. Claims 22 and 23 were amended solely to correct antecedent basis required as a result of amendments made to claim 21. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed on page 11 second full paragraph to end of page 13 and elsewhere in the application.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, 21-25, 28, 32-35 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable under Devillier (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,435) in view of Shepherd et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,478). Claims 7 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Griffiths (U.S. Patent No. 5,481,602). Claims 9, 17 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Madoch (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,409). Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Malik (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,875). Claims 18-20 and 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Bossemeyer, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,809). Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Dugan (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,411). Claims 26 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Cox (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,533). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-38, as amended herein, are patentably distinct from the cited references for the following reasons, among others.

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Confirmation of Acceptance of Formal Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests confirmation that formal drawings filed by Applicant on May 9, 2001 have been accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, 21-25, 28, 32-35 and 37 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd. Applicants' amended claim 1 recites:

A method for providing audible caller information for calls routed from a first telephone station to a second telephone station via a switching network, comprising:

 placing a first telephone call from the first telephone station directed to the second telephone station *via a first service switching point* of the switching network;

 placing a second telephone call from a services node to the second telephone station *via a second service switching point*;

 replacing a telephone directory number associated with the services node with a telephone directory number associated with the first telephone station;

 determining information associated with the first telephone station from a database stored at a services control point; and

 audibly communicating the information associated with the first telephone station to the second telephone station and *visually communicating the telephone directory number of the first telephone station that replaced the telephone directory number associated with the services node via the second telephone call and the second service switching point*.

(emphasis added).

Devillier describes a method to audibly announce a caller name to a subscriber by asking the caller to say his name, recording it and playing the name back when the call is completed. (Devillier, abstract, FIGs. 1, 6, column 2, line 65-column 3 line 13). Devillier does not teach at least "replacing a telephone directory number associated with the services node with a telephone directory number associated with the first telephone station."

Shepherd is directed to an Extended Directory service that uses an existing subscriber directory number (DN) and extends it to include one or more other directory numbers (column 3, lines 10-13), so that a call to a Extended Directory subscriber's DN (referred to as Ext-DN) will ring at all the telephone numbers associated with the subscriber's Ext-DN. As shown in Figure 3, in Shepherd, a single service switching point (SSP) is associated with all of the calls.

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As neither Devillier nor Shepherd, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is allowable and request the withdrawal of the §103 rejections of claim 1 and its dependent claims, 3-10 and 38.

Amended claims 11 and 21 recite features analogous to those discussed with respect to amended claim 1. Hence Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 11 and 21 are allowable for the reasons stated above and request the withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 11 and 21 and their dependent claims, 12-20 and 22-37.

Claims 7 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Griffiths; claims 9, 17 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Madoch; claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Malik; claims 18-20 and 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Bossemeyer, Jr.; claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Dugan; claims 26 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Devillier in view of Shepherd and further in view of Cox.

The deficiencies of Devillier and Shepherd are not remedied by Griffiths, Madoch, Malik, Bossemeyer, Dugan, or Cox. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-38 are allowable and request the withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of these claims.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and an early allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Susan C. Murphy at (215) 557-5933, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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